

Phyllis Margaret Turnure Pearson

Phyllis Margaret Turnure Pearson, 92, died peacefully on 8 Sept 2013 at 8:34 pm at Evergreen Hospice in Kirkland, Washington.

Phyllis Margaret Turnure was born on 25 Feb 1921 in Red Cloud, Webster Co, Nebraska. The family moved to Seattle in the late 1920s. Phyllis graduated from Roosevelt High School, Seattle, WA in 1939. At Roosevelt, she was Girls' Club President, and was recognized as the most inspirational senior girl of her year. At the University of Washington, Seattle, she majored in English, minored in Philosophy, and joined Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa, with a Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude. She then married Donald L Pearson, had two daughters, and moved to Wedgewood. When her daughters were in junior and senior high schools, she earned a Teaching Certificate at the University of Washington in 1958. She taught English and chaired an English Department in the Shoreline system. During the following years, she also earned university credits in Art History, Humanities, and Education. After retirement in 1982, she took docent training at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture on the University of Washington campus. She took additional courses in Anthropology, History and Geology.

Phyllis hiked locally, in the Andes, and the Himalaya, and traveled in Asia, South America, Africa, and Europe, to China, Japan, Tibet, Bhutan, India, the Galapagos Islands, Macchu Pichu, and England. She taught classes in Northwest Coast Indian basketry and conducted tours through the Burke Museum of Natural History at the University of Washington. She was an avid hiker and cyclist, and will be especially missed by the group of women with whom she hiked every Thursday, rain or shine. She presented slides of her travels for friends and groups such as Seattle Art Museum Seniors, Basketry Guild, and church groups.

Phyllis and Donald Leroy Pearson married on 20 Sep 1942. They were divorced in 1971 and he died on 29 Mar 2006 in Highline Hospital, Seattle, Washington.

Phyllis is survived by her daughters, Anne Tracy, of Davis, California and Margaret J Pearson of Saratoga Springs, NY, and by granddaughter Katie Phillips and great-granddaughter Elena Phillips, both of Davis, California. She also lives in the memories of her many friends, students, and colleagues.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, 29 September 2013, at 2 pm, in the Library of Ida Culver Ravenna, 2315 NE 65th Street, Seattle WA 98115. Phyllis asked that any memorial donations be made either to the American Civil Liberties Union or the Burke Museum at the University of Washington.